



## CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

March 2, 2010

Senator Andrea Stillman, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee

Representative Stephan Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee

Subject: **SENATE BILL #5293**

The Connecticut State Firefighters Association wishes to go on record in support of **Raised House Bill #5293, AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS.**

Our Association represents approximately 27,000 career and volunteer firefighters in the State of Connecticut.

It seems ironic that we stand before you again asking for your support for funding for the projects identified in the Connecticut Firefighters Education Committee Facilities Study, a \$65+ Million dollar project, conducted by the State Department of Public Works in 2003. Ironic because each and every year that we have stood before you, this Public Safety Committee has been in complete support of this project. You have even put your signature to communications to encourage that support.

Yet, here we are again. It has been a frustrating journey. The only difference this year is that in this past year we have had some forward progress. After many delays, and only spending approximately \$500,000 from 2004 until 2009, a bid was awarded this past October for approximately \$4.5 Mil for the upgrade of the New Haven Regional Fire School. The upgrade for the Hartford Regional Fire School is almost ready and should go to bid during mid March 2010. It is expected to award a bid of approximately \$5.0 Mil in May 2010. Property purchase evaluation is currently proceeding for the Eastern (Willimantic) Regional Fire School. Design work continues to move forward for the Fairfield and Burrville (Torrington) Regional Fire Schools. It is expected that we will expend approximately \$10 Mil by the end of this fiscal year. It is not certain whether property acquisition for the Willimantic Regional School will be completed in this fiscal year or into the 2010/2011 F/Y.

If all is as anticipated, these projects will expend a little over \$11 Mil. To date the Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee has provided \$28 Mil toward the \$65+ Mil overall project. While there is approximately \$18 Mil still to be expended, it is anticipated that the Fairfield & Burrville projects will expend approximately \$9.5 Mil each. This will leave us short of funding to move forward with these two projects. The Office of Policy & Management has told us that they will definitely not move forward with any portion of these projects without complete funding in place. Additional bonding is needed at this time to keep this project moving forward.

We would request that this committee support this legislative initiative. We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association